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Title: Need to provide potable water to all the people in the country.

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE (JORHAT): It is a matter of grave concern that India's position figures in the range of lowest among nations in respect of the quality of water available for its citizens. Among 122 nations, India is given 120th rank in the first ever United Nations evaluation of global water resources in the World Water Development Report entitled "Water for People, Water for Life."

Our country can take no solace when the Report says that 50 per cent of the population of developing countries were exposed to polluted water sources and that Asian rivers are the most polluted in the world with 20 times more lead than those of industrialised countries.

What India can do even at this belated stage is to make a determined bid to turn the situation, no matter how many years it might take. But the work must begin.

I request the Union Government to take corrective measures in this regard.